

## WE CLAIM:

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- 1 1. A partition for a column for separation of  
2 substance or chemical reactions, comprising at least two mutually  
3 parallel wall elements disposed substantially contiguously one  
4 above another or one alongside another, and a plug or clamp  
5 connector along an edge of one of said wall elements receiving an  
6 edge of the other wall element.
- 1 2. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein said  
2 connector is provided adjustably on at least one side of said one  
3 of said wall elements.
- 1 3. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein said  
2 connector includes a strip parallel to said edge of said one of  
3 said elements and affixed to a face thereof to form along said  
4 edge of said one of said wall elements, a slot receiving said  
5 edge of the other wall element.
- 1 4. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein said  
2 connector includes a pair of strips affixed to opposite faces of  
3 said one of said wall elements and projecting beyond said edge of  
4 said one of said wall elements to form a slot receiving the other  
5 wall element and overlapping opposite faces thereof at said edge  
6 of said other wall element.

1           5. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein said  
2 connector includes a first strip mounted on said one of said wall  
3 elements parallel to said edge of said one of said wall elements  
4 and a spacer between said strip and a face of said one of said  
5 wall elements whereby said strip defines with said one of said  
6 wall elements along the edge of said one of said wall elements a  
7 slot receiving said edge of said other wall element, said strip  
8 overlapping said other of said wall elements.

1           6. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein said  
2 connector includes a step formed in said edge of said one of said  
3 wall elements in which said edge of said other wall element is  
4 received, and a strip juxtaposed with said other wall element,  
5 secured to said one of said wall elements and defining a slot  
6 with said step in which said edge of said other wall elements is  
7 received.

1           7. The partition defined in claim 1, further  
2 comprising a strip of stepped cross section secured to said one  
3 of said wall elements and forming said connector, said strip  
4 defining a slot receiving said edge of said other wall element.

1           8. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein said wall  
2 elements are coplanar with one another.

1           9. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein said  
2 connector includes at least one strip connected by welds to said  
3 one of said wall elements along said edge of said one of said  
4 wall elements.

1           10. The partition defined in claim 9 wherein said  
2 welds are spot welds.

1           11. The partition defined in claim 9 wherein said  
2 welds are roller-generated point weld connections.

1           12. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein said  
2 connector includes at least one strip fastened along said edge of  
3 said one of said wall elements and secured thereto by threaded  
4 bolt connections.

1           13. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein said  
2 connector includes at least one strip composed of metal or  
3 plastic.

1           14. The partition defined in claim 1, further  
2 comprising sealing elements along at least one edge of the  
3 partition adapted to contact a wall of said column.

1           15. The partition defined in claim 14 wherein said  
2       sealing elements are composed of thin slitted sheet metal or a  
3       metal fabric.

1           16. The partition defined in claim 14 wherein said  
2       sealing elements are resilient sealing lips.

1           17. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein lateral  
2       faces of said wall elements are rectangular or triangular.

1           18. The partition defined in claim 1 wherein said  
2       connector includes at least one strip overlapping said other all  
3       element and affixed to said one of said wall elements and forming  
4       a sealing connection between said wall elements at said edges  
5       thereof.

1           19. A column for the separation of components of a  
2       flowable mixture or for effecting chemical reaction, comprising:

3           an upright column housing formed internally with at  
4       least one vertical partition separating an inlet side of an  
5       interior of said column from an outlet side thereof,

6           at least one fitting for introducing a mixture of  
7       flowable compounds into said inlet said,

8           at least one lateral fitting for discharging a flowable  
9       substance from said outlet side, said partition comprising at

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- 22 -